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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE PLAN OF ACTION

Caribbean regional seminar, to be held at Port-of-Spain from 3 to 5 July 1995

Guidelines

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and a Plan of Action "aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism" (see A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1), in which, inter alia, it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

2. In its resolution 46/70 of 11 December 1991 on cooperation and coordination of specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly stated that "in addition to general problems facing developing countries, the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, many of which are small island Territories, also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens".

3. In its resolution 49/89 of 16 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the Special Committee should carry out, during its 1995 session, a mid-term review of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in the context of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

II. PLACE AND DATES OF THE SEMINAR

4. The Caribbean Regional Seminar will be held at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 3 to 5 July 1995.

III. PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR

5. The purpose of the Seminar is to assess political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories particularly with the view to evaluating their evolution toward self-determination. Special attention will be paid to the examination of the options for self-determination open to the populations of the Territories concerned in accordance with the

Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, as well as the Plan of Action.

6. The topics to be considered by the Seminar will assist the Special Committee in a realistic evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar will give pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. Considering the particular importance of the review of the Plan of Action at the mid-point of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and in the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the Seminar will invite representatives of the peoples and the administrating Powers from the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions. It will also secure the participation of organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of these Territories and of selected non-governmental organizations with long and established experience in island Territories. Special emphasis will also be placed on the participation of organizations of the United Nations system with a view to formulating programmes of assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories aimed at enhancing their viable and sustainable development.

7. The contributions of the participants will serve as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar, which will assist the Special Committee in its consideration of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories during its 1995 session.

8. Participants will be required to submit papers, which will also include conclusions and recommendations/suggestions on the topics specified in the agenda as they pertain to Non-Self-Governing Territories on the list of the Special Committee.

IV. AGENDA OF THE SEMINAR

9. The agenda of the Seminar is as follows:

1. Political questions:

   (a) Self-determination: concept, options and its application in small island Non-Self-Governing Territories;

   (b) Examination of options of self-determination available to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations:

      (i) Independence;

      (ii) Free association with an independent State;

      (iii) Integration with an independent State;

(iv) Association with an organization (regional/subregional) of independent States;

(v) Economically sustainable autonomy;

(vi) Other possible options.

2. Economic and social questions:

(a) Economic and social advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories and their impact on the exercise of the right to self-determination;

(b) Development of tourism: its impact on the economic and social sectors and on the environment;

(c) The issue of drug trafficking and money laundering;

(d) Human resources development and the consequences of emigration and immigration;

(e) The role of the specialized agencies, international and regional organizations in the economic and social advancement of the Territories;

(f) Access of Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system;

(g) Particular areas in which regional cooperation requires strengthening by both the Territories concerned and international agencies: preservation and protection of marine and other natural resources from over-exploitation; transport and communications; higher education; research and development; regional pooling arrangements for sharing special skills and expertise; and assistance in the public health area.

3. Environment and development:

(a) Implications for the island Territories of global warming, the rise in the sea level and other ecological hazards;

(b) Local efforts in national disaster preparedness: institutionalization and coordination of disaster relief;

(c) International and regional cooperation in mitigating the effects of natural disasters;

(d) Questions relating to the law of the sea and the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the region.

V. ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

10. The following provisions will govern the organization of the Seminar:

(a) The Seminar will be organized by the Special Committee in accordance with the rules of procedures contained in the annex to the present guidelines;

(b) The Seminar will be conducted by a delegation of the Special Committee consisting of the Chairman and seven other members;

(c) The Seminar may be attended by the following:

(i) Representatives of the host Government;

(ii) Representatives of the administering Powers;

(iii) Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(iv) A representative of the Secretary-General;

(v) Representatives of concerned specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system;

(vi) Representatives of non-governmental organizations based in the region or in the Non-Self-Governing Territories; if not, other territorial entities;

(vii) Experts on Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(viii) Appropriate media representatives.

ANNEX

Rules of procedure

Preamble

The Caribbean Regional Seminar is being held under the terms of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991. The organization of the Seminar and the conduct of its proceedings shall follow the general guidelines set out in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. a/

Rule 1

Responsibility for conducting the Seminar

The Seminar shall be organized by the Special Committee and conducted by the Chairman of the Special Committee, as the Chairman, with the assistance of the Bureau of the Seminar (see rule 2 (a) below).

Rule 2

Officers of the Seminar

(a) The Chairman shall appoint a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur for the Seminar from among the participating members of the Special Committee. The Vice-Chairman will be allocated specific responsibilities by the Chairman. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the Seminar.

(b) The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Seminar, direct its discussions, ensure observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions.

(c) If the Chairman is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman shall preside over the meeting.

Rule 3

Secretariat

(a) The secretariat of the Special Committee shall service the Seminar.

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements regarding the organization of the Seminar.

Rule 4

Languages

The working language of the Seminar shall be English.

Rule 5

Conduct of business

(a) Decisions shall, as a rule, be taken by consensus. Should a vote be required, only representatives of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall be entitled to vote.

(b) Any procedural question with regard to the conduct of business of the Seminar not covered by the present rules shall be decided upon by the Chairman in consultation with the Bureau of the Seminar.

Rule 6

Participation in the Seminar

Participation in the Seminar shall be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations have been addressed by the Chairman of the Special Committee in accordance with the related decision of the General Assembly b/ and whose names appear on the official list of participants drawn up by the Chairman (see also para. 6 of the present guidelines).

Rule 7

Debates and publicity concerning the Seminar

(a) The meetings of the Seminar shall be held in public unless the Chairman decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private.

(b) Statements on behalf of the Seminar to the information media shall be made by the Chairman. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat shall be responsible for the dissemination of information on the Seminar, including the issuance of press releases covering meetings of the Seminar held in public.

(c) Participating non-governmental organizations shall be represented by the person so invited (see rule 6 above), who may make one general statement on issues within the purview of the Committee's mandate and pertaining to those Territories under its consideration during the course of the Seminar.

(d) The Chairman may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker.

(e) During the course of the discussion, the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the list closed. When there are no speakers, the Chairman shall, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the debate closed.

Rule 8

Records

The Seminar shall have sound recordings of its proceedings, which shall be retained in the archives of the United Nations in accordance with established practice.

Rule 9

Report

The members of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall adopt a report on the Seminar, the draft of which shall be prepared by the Rapporteur of the Seminar. The Seminar shall entrust to the Chairman of the Special Committee the task of preparing the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on the basis of the information contained in the report. The report of the Seminar, as well as the draft conclusions and recommendations prepared by the Chairman, shall be submitted to the Special Committee for its consideration and subsequent submission to the appropriate body (bodies).

Notes

a/ A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1.

b/ See A/46/634/Rev.1, para. 22 (c).